Creative MovieMaker

User Guide
On-line Version

Getting Started
Video Blaster MovieMaker

Creative End-User Software License Agreement
Version 2.4, June 2000

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ATTENTION: Ce périphérique est destiné à être connecté par l'utilisateur à un ordinateur IBM AT certifié ou listé CSA/TUV/UL ou compatible, à l'intérieur de la zone d'accès définie par le fabricant. Consulter le mode d'emploi/guide d'installation et/ou le fabricant de l'appareil pour vérifier ou confirmer qu'il est possible de connecter d'autres périphériques à votre sytème.

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❑ Connect the equipment to an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
❑ Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician.

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All cables used to connect the computer and peripherals must be shielded and grounded. Operation with non-certified computers or non-shielded cables may result in interference to radio or television reception.

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This product conforms to the following Council Directive:
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According to the FCC96 208 and ET95-19,

Manufacturer/Importer's Name:*Creative Labs, Inc.*

Manufacturer/Importer's Address: *1901 McCarthy Boulevard*
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Tel: (408) 428-6600

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Trade Name: *Creative Labs*

Model Numbers: *PD0020*

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EMI/EMC: ANSI C63.4 1992, FCC Part 15 Subpart B
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Creative Labs, Inc.
6 October, 2000

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Contents

Introduction

The Creative Video Blaster MovieMaker is a USB device that allows the real-time encoding of analog audio and video from sources such as camcorders, VCRs, or television. Some of the great things you can do with Video Blaster MovieMaker include:

❑ **Video and Movie Archiving**. Use Video Blaster MovieMaker to digitally archive precious home movies that were recorded on fragile video tapes. Once digitally recorded in MPEG format, your home movies will be protected from the wear and tear of repeated viewing.

❑ **Convenient Playback**. Combine Video Blaster MovieMaker with a CD-RW drive like the Creative CD-RW Blaster 8432, and you can copy your recorded files direct to CD for convenient and easy play back.

❑ **Fast Distribution.** Share your favorite home movie moments with friends or relatives by sending recorded files as e-mail attachments.

❑ **Professional Style Editing.** Add a professional touch to your movies with titles, credits, fancy wipes and fades. Combine several video clips into a collection of highlights.

About the Applications

Video Blaster MovieMaker Control Application

Video Blaster MovieMaker Control is an easy-to-use application that works with your Video Blaster MovieMaker Control hardware, allowing you to preview and record MPEG files from your audio/video source. Once recorded, the MPEG files can be easily managed and played back.

Video Blaster MovieMaker Control also gives you the freedom to tweak file settings until you are satisfied with what you have recorded. You can even copy the files direct to CD or send them to friends via e-mail!

Before You Begin

The README file on the CD-ROM contains information not available at the time of printing. Read the file before you continue. In addition, read the following:

❑ System Requirements
❑ Document Conventions

System Requirements

Minimum system requirements for Video Blaster MovieMaker:

❑ IBM® PC or 100% compatible
❑ Genuine Intel® Pentium®, Pentium II, Pentium III, AMD-K6-2, or AMD® Athlon™ family processor running at 350 MHz or faster
❑ 32MB RAM recommended
❑ 100 MB free hard disk space to install the application software
(An additional 2 GB of hard drive storage is recommended for storing videos)
❑ CD-ROM drive installed
(CD-R or CD-RW writer recommended for saving recorded video files to CD)
❑ DVD player capable of reading CD-R or CD-RW media, required for playing Video CDs
❑ Available USB port or self-powered USB hub
❑ Display adapter capable of 16-bit color at 800x600
❑ Sound Blaster or other Windows compatible sound card
❑ Microsoft® Windows® 98, Windows 2000 and Windows Me

Document Conventions

The following typographical conventions are used throughout this document:

Table i: Document conventions

This	Represents
bold	Text that must be entered exactly as it appears.
italic	Title of a book or a placeholder, which represents the information you must provide.
UPPERCASE	Directory name, file name, or acronym.
< >	Symbols, letters, and key names on the keyboard.
	This notepad icon indicates information that is of particular importance and should be considered before continuing.
	This alarm clock icon indicates that failure to adhere to directions may result in loss of data or damage to your system.
	The warning sign indicates that failure to adhere to directions may result in bodily harm or life-threatening situations.

Installing Video Blaster MovieMaker

This chapter tells you how to quickly install the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware and application.

In Your Package

Your package contains the following items:

Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware

1 Video Blaster MovieMaker Installation CD

Application Software CD

AC adapter

Audio/Video RCA cable

USB cable
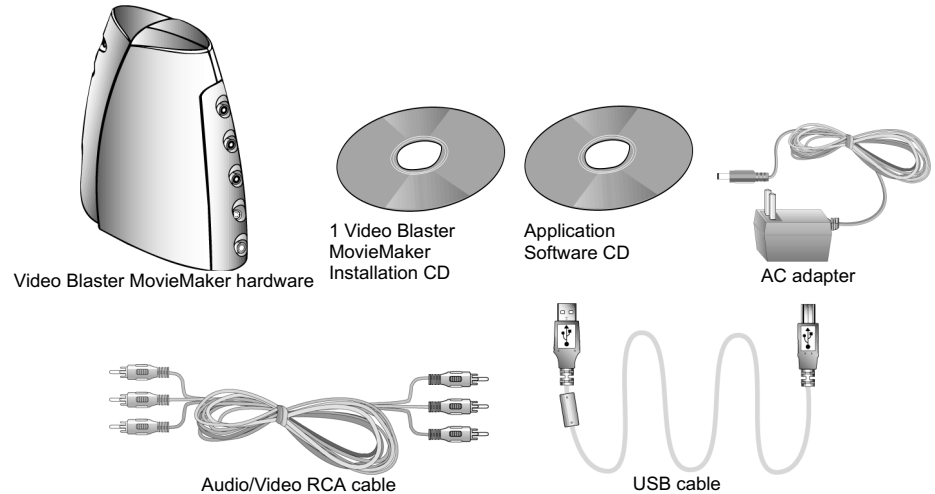
Figure 1-1:   Video Blaster MovieMaker package.

About the Video Blaster MovieMaker Hardware

Figure 1-2 shows you the front and back views of the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware.

Front view

Back view

LED
Lights up in green when the hardware is turned on. Orange when recording. Flashes when hardware is not connected properly.

Right Audio In jack
Connects to the right RCA Audio plug on the Audio/Video RCA cable. The plug is normally red.

Left Audio In jack
Connects to the left RCA Audio plug on the Audio/Video RCA cable. The plug is normally white.

Video In RCA jack
Connects to the RCA Video plug on the Audio/Video RCA cable. The plug is normally yellow.

S-Video In jack
Connects to the S-video connector.

Microphone In jack
Connects to the microphone plug.

Air vents

Reset button
Resets the hardware.

USB port
Connects to the USB cable.

AC adapter jack
Connects to the AC adapter plug.

Figure 1-2: Front and back views of the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware.

Installing Video Blaster MovieMaker

Windows 98 and Windows Me

The Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware should only be operated with the AC adapter supplied.

- If you accidentally begin installation with the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware connected, the *Add New Hardware Wizard* dialog box appears. Click the *Cancel* button and disconnect Video Blaster MovieMaker from your computer.
- You can connect Video Blaster MovieMaker's USB cable to your computer while the computer is turned on.
- The USB port(s) on your computer may be found on the front panel instead of the back.

Use the appropriate software installation procedures for your computer's operating system. For users of Windows 98 and Windows Me, see "Windows 98 and Windows Me". For users of Windows 2000, see "Windows 2000" on page 1-5.

1. Do not connect the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware to your computer before installing the drivers.
   Insert the Video Blaster MovieMaker CD into your CD-ROM drive.
2. Select the options for installing drivers and applications if they are not already selected.
3. Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the installation.
   You may be asked, after an application is installed, if you want to restart your computer. Select *No* until all the drivers and applications are installed.
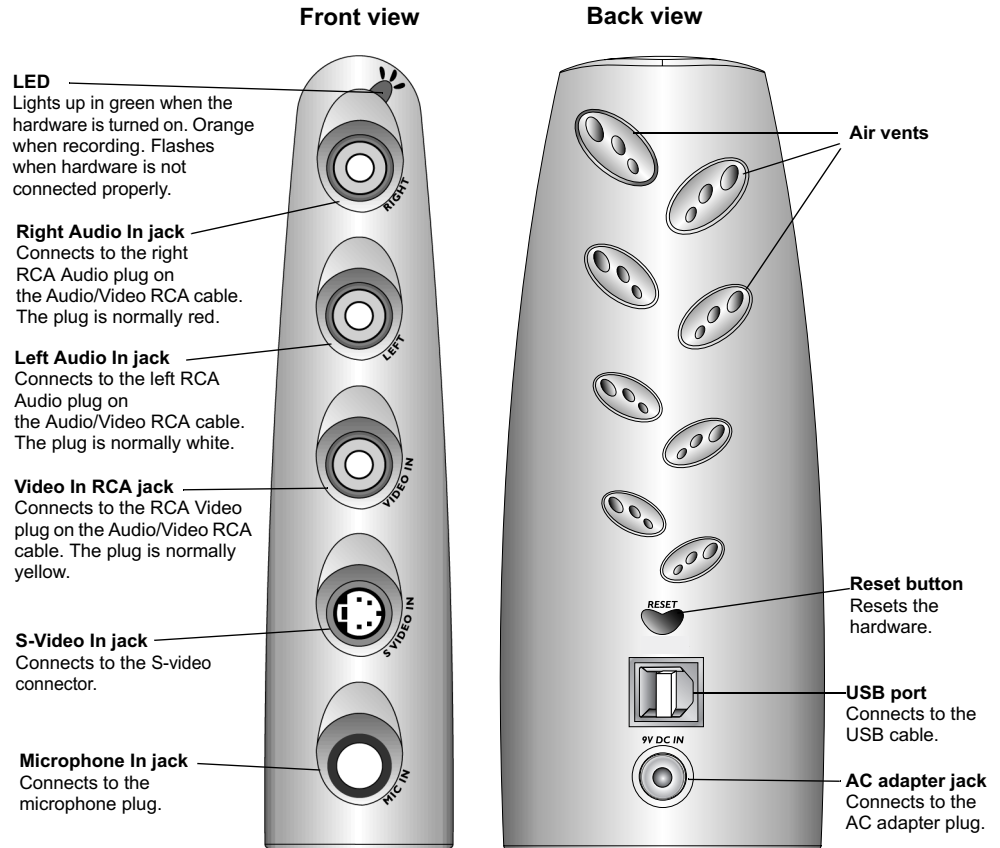4. Connect the supplied USB cable and AC adapter as shown in Figure 1-3.
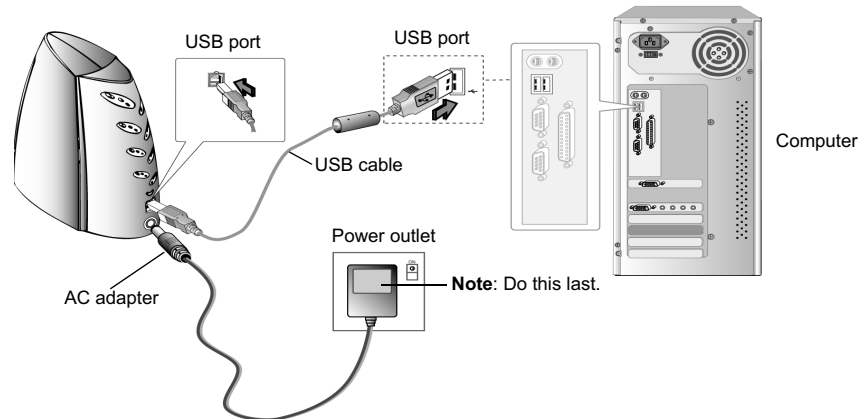
Figure 1-3: Connecting Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware to the computer and power supply.

5. Place the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware on a flat surface, plug the AC adapter into a power outlet and turn on the outlet. Windows automatically detects the device.
6. Restart your computer.

Verifying the installation in Windows 98 and Windows Me

1. Right-click the *My Computer* icon on your desktop.
2. On the menu that appears, click *Properties*.
3. In the *System Properties* dialog box, click the *Device Manager* tab.
4. Click the plus (+) sign next to the *Sound, video and game controllers* icon.
   The entry "*Creative Video Blaster MovieMaker*" should appear. If the entry does not appear, repeat the installation procedure on page 1-3.

Windows 2000

⚠️

The Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware should only be operated with the AC adapter supplied.

✍️

• If you accidentally begin installation with the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware connected, the **Add New Hardware Wizard** dialog box appears. Click the **Cancel** button and disconnect Video Blaster MovieMaker from your computer.

• You can connect Video Blaster MovieMaker's USB cable to your computer while the computer is turned on.

• The USB port(s) on your computer may be found on the front panel instead of the back.

1. Do not connect the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware to your computer before installing the drivers.
   Insert the Video Blaster MovieMaker CD into your CD-ROM drive.

2. Click the options for installing drivers and applications.
   The *Digital Signature Not Found* dialog box (Figure 1-4) appears, telling you that an unknown software package has been detected.

3. Click the *Yes* button.
   The drivers are copied to your system.

4. Connect the supplied USB cable and AC adapter as shown in Figure 1-3.

5. Place the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware on a flat surface, plug the AC adapter into a power outlet and turn on the outlet.
   The *Digital Signature Not Found* dialog box appears (Figure 1-5) again, telling you that Video Blaster MovieMaker has been detected.

6. Click the *Yes* button to complete installation.

Figure 1-4: ***Digital Signature Not Found*** *dialog box.*

Figure 1-5: ***Digital Signature Not Found*** *dialog box.*

Verifying the installation in Windows 2000

1. Right-click the *My Computer* icon on your desktop.
2. On the menu that appears, click *Properties*.
3. In the *System Properties* dialog box, click the *Hardware* tab.
4. Click the *Device Manager* button.
5. Click the plus (+) sign next to the *Sound, video and game controllers* icon.
   The entry *"Creative Video Blaster MovieMaker"* should appear.
   If the entry does not appear, repeat the installation procedure on page 1-5.

Connecting To Audio/Video Sources

2

After installing Video Blaster MovieMaker, you must connect the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware to an audio/video source in order to begin recording.
This chapter is organized as follows:

❑ Connecting Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware to video sources

❑ Connecting Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware to audio sources

For a complete Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware connectivity diagram, refer to "Video Blaster MovieMaker Connectivity Diagram" on page C-27.

Connecting Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware to video sources

- Some possible composite or S-video sources include output from a VCR, camcorder, or a DVD/VCD/LD player. Your choice is limited only by whether the video source uses RCA or S-video cables.
- Video Blaster MovieMaker is compatible with PAL and NTSC video sources.
- One composite and one S-video source can be connected to Video Blaster MovieMaker simultaneously. Video Blaster MovieMaker will recognize the video source selected in Hardware Settings. For details, refer to "Adjusting Hardware Settings" on page 3-21.
- To record video with audio, be sure that both video and audio sources are connected to Video Blaster MovieMaker.

To record video, the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware must be connected to a video source. Video Blaster MovieMaker can be connected to two types of video sources — composite video or Super-video (S-video). Composite video sources are connected to Video Blaster MovieMaker with the provided audio/video RCA cable while S-video sources are connected with S-video cables (not provided).

It is advised to use a shielded S-video cable for S-video sources.

To connect the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware to a video source:

1. Connect the RCA video plug or S-video connector to the Video In RCA jack or S-video In jack at the front of Video Blaster MovieMaker.

2. Connect the RCA video plug or S-video connector to your video source.

3. Be sure that the video source, the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware and the computer are properly connected and turned on before you start recording.
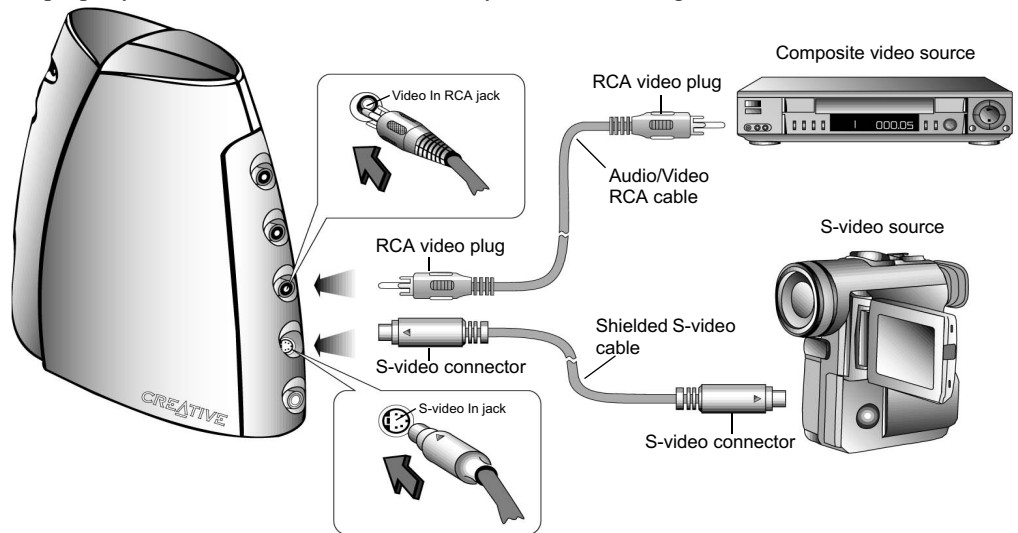

Figure 2-1:   Connecting the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware to a video source.

Connecting Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware to audio sources

[icon]

- In most instances, your audio source would be the same as your video source. You can, however, use an audio source which is separate from your video source. You can, for example, use a camcorder as the video source and a CD player as the audio source.
- You can use a microphone to add great effects like voice-overs. To configure Video Blaster MovieMaker to use a microphone, refer to "Recording an audio/video file with microphone audio" on page 3-14.
- PC microphones that use mini-plugs must be attached to full-size adapters (not supplied) before use with Video Blaster MovieMaker.

To record video with audio, the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware must be connected to both an audio and video source.

To connect the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware to an audio source:

1. Connect the left and right RCA audio plugs to the respective RCA jacks at the front of Video Blaster MovieMaker. If you are using a microphone, connect the microphone plug to the microphone jack at the front of Video Blaster MovieMaker.

2. Connect the left and right RCA audio plugs to your audio source.
   If your audio source is the same as your video source, you must connect the left and right RCA audio plugs to your video source, regardless of whether it is a composite or S-video source.

3. Be sure that the audio source, video source, the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware and the computer are properly connected and turned on before you start recording.
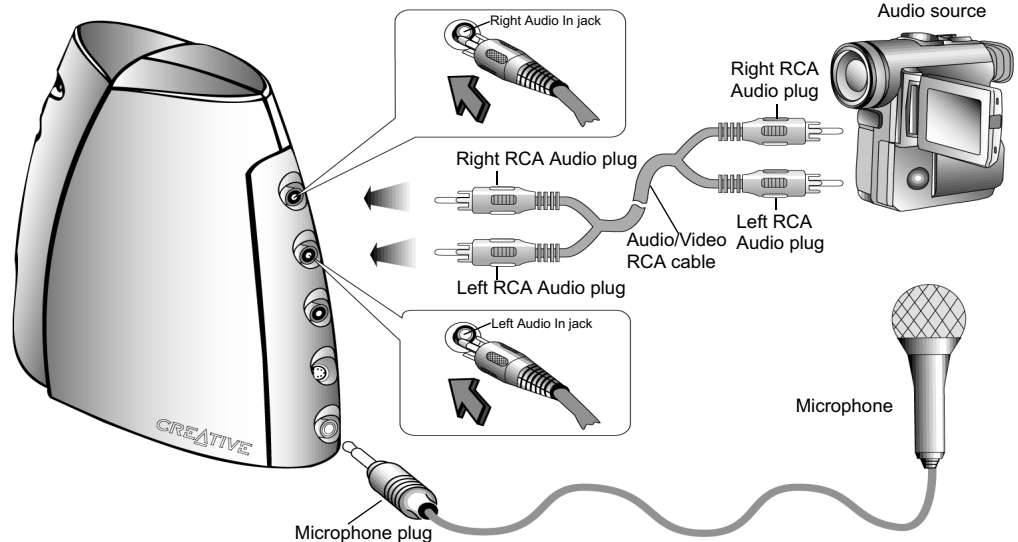
Figure 2-2: Connecting the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware to an audio source.

Using The Video Blaster MovieMaker Control

3

The Video Blaster MovieMaker Control application helps you to quickly and easily record, preview and manage recorded audio/video files, and to copy recorded files to CD with the Create CD Wizard.

This chapter provides instructions on how to use the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control application, including:

❑ Starting the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control application

❑ About the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control application

❑ Recording an audio/video file

❑ Recording an audio/video file with microphone audio

❑ Playing back a recorded file

❑ Using Create CD Wizard

❑ Adjusting Hardware Settings

❑ Adjusting Recording Options

❑ Adjusting Video Display Settings

❑ Starting Video Blaster MovieMaker Help

Starting the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control application

1. Click *Start,* select *Programs,* select *Creative,* select *Video Blaster MovieMaker* and click on *Video Blaster MovieMaker.*
2. When the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control application is started for the first time, the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control Settings window appears, prompting you to configure hardware and recording settings.
   Select the options that best match your hardware and recording needs and click the *OK* button.
   If you do not want to select the hardware and recording settings during the first start up, click the *Cancel* button.
   For details on changing hardware and recording settings later, refer to "Adjusting Hardware Settings" on page 3-21 and "Adjusting Recording Options" on page 3-21.

About the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control application

To find out what each button does, move your cursor over the button in the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control window and a short description will appear.

After selecting the appropriate settings, the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control window shown in Figure 3-1 appears, displaying the current video input.

Figure 3-1:   Video Blaster MovieMaker window.

The sections that follow describe the more commonly used Video Blaster MovieMaker operations. For more information on how to use Video Blaster MovieMaker Control, see "Starting Video Blaster MovieMaker Help" on page 3-23.

Recording an audio/video file

- The LED light on the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware glows orange during recording.
- For best results, start recording just before the video you want to record appears on the Video Preview screen.
- To automatically stop recording after a specified time period, use the Limit Recording Time feature. For details on using this and other Recording Options, refer to "Adjusting Recording Options" on page 3-21.
- For details on tweaking display settings, refer to "Adjusting Video Display Settings" on page 3-23.
- For details on using your audio/video sources, refer to the product's manual.

1. Start the audio/video input on your audio/video source(s).
   The current video input will be displayed on the Video Preview screen.
2. Click the *Record* button in the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control window to start recording.
3. Click the *Stop* button to stop recording.

Recording an audio/video file with microphone audio

- To record video with only audio input from your microphone, disconnect other audio sources from the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware.
- If you experience noise from your speakers when using a microphone, reduce speaker volume or move the microphone away from your speakers.
- For details on adjusting Hardware Settings, refer to "Adjusting Hardware Settings" on page 3-21

In addition to audio input from your audio source, voice-overs can be recorded by using a microphone.

Before recording, be sure that the microphone is properly connected to the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware and is turned on.

To record an audio/video file with microphone audio:

1. In the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control window, click the *Settings* button.
2. In the *Hardware Settings* tabbed page, in the *Microphone Input* section, click *Auto-detect* (Figure 3-2).
3. Click the *OK* button.
4. Start the audio/video input from your audio/video source(s).
   The current video input is displayed on the Video Preview screen.
5. In the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control window, click the *Record* button to start recording.
6. Click the *Stop* button to stop recording.
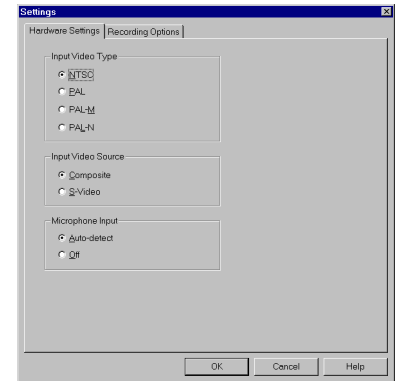
Figure 3-2: **Hardware Settings** *tabbed page of* **Settings Window.**

Playing back a recorded file

- To improve your viewing experience, maximize the preview screen.
- Use the volume control slider to adjust play back volume.

With the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control application, you can quickly play back recorded files on the Video Preview screen.

To play back a recorded file:

In the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control window, double-click the file description or thumbnail of the recorded file you want to play back.
Alternatively, if a file is already selected, click the *Play* button in the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control window.

Using Create CD Wizard

- A data CD can contain MPEG-1, MPEG-2 or Video CD files.
  Files on data CDs are only playable on computers.
- A Video CD contains only Video CD files. Files on Video CDs are playable on both computers and DVD/Video CD players.
- Some CD-R or CD-RW media may not be compatible with certain DVD/Video CD players. Check with your distributor on your player's compatibility.

Creating data and Video CDs is fast and simple with the Create CD Wizard included in the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control application.

Read the following sections on how to use Create CD Wizard:

❑ To create a data CD

❑ To create a Video CD

❑ To record and create a Video CD in one step

❑ To record and create a data CD in one step

The first two options, *To create a data CD* and *To create a Video CD,* will burn a CD from a file already recorded. Whilst the options *To record and create a Video CD in one step* or *To record and create a data CD in one step,* will enable the Video Blaster MovieMaker to directly import live video and record it simultaneously to a CD.

To create a data CD

• To create a data CD, your audio/video files must be recorded in MPEG-1 or MPEG-2 format.
  For details on recording files in MPEG-1 or MPEG-2, refer to "Adjusting Recording Options" on page 3-21.

• Audio/video files not recorded with Video Blaster MovieMaker can also be copied to a data CD with Create CD Wizard.

1. In the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control window, click the *Details* button.

2. In the *Details* view of the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control window, select the check boxes of the files to copy to CD.

3. Click the *Create CD* button.
   The *Create CD* dialog box appears.

4. In the *Select an Option* section (Figure 3-3), click *Create a data CD*.

5. Click the *CD writer drive* box and click from the list the CD writer to use.
   Note: Only CD writers installed in your system will be listed.

6. In the *CD title* box, type a title for the CD. Leave the box blank if you do not want a title.

7. Click the *CD writing speed* box and click from the list the speed at which you want files to be copied to the CD.
   Note: Select a speed which is compatible with your CD writer and CD media.

8. Place a usable CD-R or CD-RW in your CD writer.

9. Click the *Next* button.

10. To copy additional files to the CD:
    i. In the *Create a Data CD* dialog box (Figure 3-4) that appears, click the *Add* button.
    ii. In the window, select the additional files to copy to the CD.
    iii. Click the *Add* button.
    Note: Skip this step if you do not have additional files to copy to the CD.
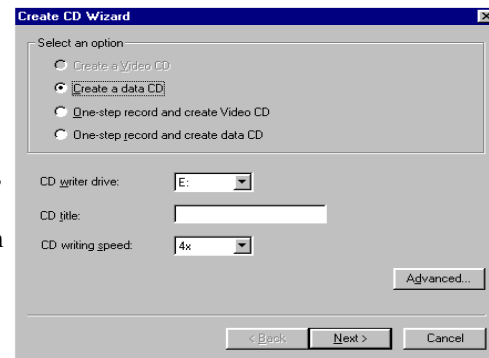
11. Click the *Start* button.

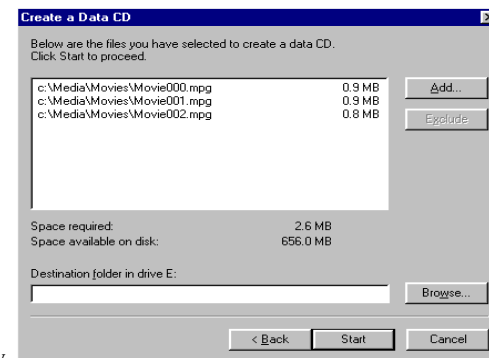*Figure 3-3:* **Create CD Wizard** *dialog box.*

Figure 3-4: **Create Data CD** *dialog box.*

To create a Video CD

• To create a Video CD, your audio/video files must be recorded in the Video CD format. For details on recording Video CD files, refer to "Adjusting Recording Options" on page 3-21.

• Video CD files not recorded with Video Blaster MovieMaker can also be copied to Video CD with Create CD Wizard.

1. Follow steps 1 through 9 in the section above.
   Note: For step 4, click *Create a Video CD* instead.

2. To copy additional Video CD files to the CD:

   i. In the *Create a Video CD* dialog box (Figure 3-5) that appears, click the *Add* button.

   ii. In the window, select the additional Video CD files to copy to the CD.

   iii. Click the *Add* button.

   Note: Skip this step if you do not have additional files to copy to the CD.

3. To rearrange the order in which the Video CD files will be copied to the CD, select the file, then click the *Up/Down* buttons in the *Create a Video CD* dialog box.
   Note: Skip this step if you do not want to rearrange file order.
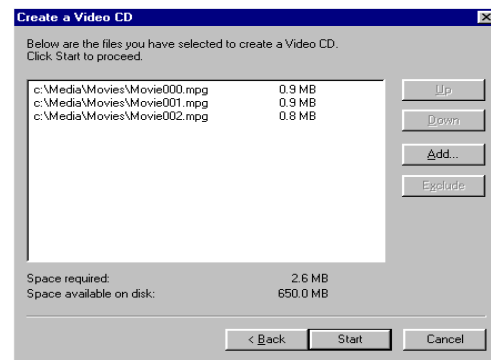
4. Click the *Start* button.

Figure 3-5: **Create Video a CD** *dialog box.*

To Record and Create a Video CD in One Step

![notepad icon]

When using the one-step record option the Video Blaster MovieMaker should be connected to the computer and switched on. The video source (camcorder, VCR, etc.) should also be switched on and ready to go.

1. In the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control window, click the *Create CD* button. The *Create CD Wizard* dialog box appears.
2. In the *Select an Option* section (Figure 3-6), click *One-step record and create Video CD*.
3. Click the *CD writer drive* box and click from the list the CD writer to use.
   Note: Only CD writers installed in your system will be listed.
4. In the *CD title* box, type a title for the CD. Leave the box blank if you do not want a title.
5. Click the *CD writing speed* box and click from the list the speed at which you want the files to be copied to CD.
   Note: Select a speed which is compatible with your CD writer and CD media.
6. Place a usable CD-R or CD-RW in your CD writer.
7. Click the *Next* button.
8. The *One-step Record and Create Video CD* dialog box (Figure 3-7) appears. In the *Video recording duration* box, type or select the time you want to limit recording to.
9. Click the *Start* button.
   After recording, the Create CD Wizard will automatically copy the file(s) to your CD.

*Figure 3-6:   **Create CD Wizard** dialog box.*

*Figure 3-7:   **One-step Record and Create Video CD** dialog box.*

To record and create a data CD in one-step

1. Follow steps 1 through 7 in the section above.
   Note: For step 2, click *One-step record and create data CD* instead.

2. The *One-step Record and Create Data CD* dialog box (Figure 3-8) appears. In the *Output file name* box, type the location where the file will be copied to. Alternatively, click the *Browse* button and locate where your files will be copied to.

3. To select a output video file type, click the *MPEG-1* or *MPEG-2* options.

4. Click the *Start* button.
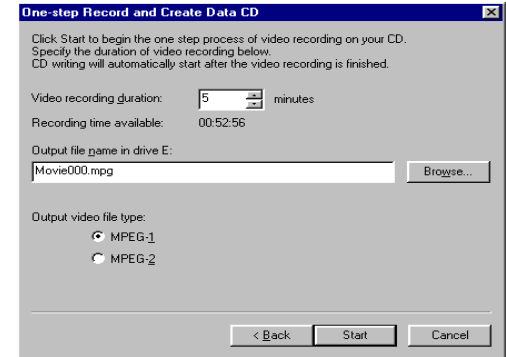   After recording, the Create CD Wizard will automatically copy the file(s) to your CD.

*Figure 3-8:   **One-step Record and Create Data CD** dialog box.*

Adjusting Hammardware Settings

If you are not sure whether your video source uses the NTSC or PAL standard, check your video source's manual. Only these standards are compatible with Video Blaster MovieMaker.

When the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control application is launched for the first time, you will be prompted to configure Hardware Settings to match your video source.
If you decide to change your video source after this, Video Blaster MovieMaker Hardware Settings must be changed to match the new video source.

To adjust MovieMaker Hardware Settings:

1. After connecting the video source to Video Blaster MovieMaker, start the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control application.

2. In the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control window, click the *Settings* button.

3. On the *Hardware Settings* tabbed page (see Figure 3-9), do one of the following:

   • To select an Input Video Type, click *NTSC*, *PAL*, *PAL-M* or *PAL-N*.

   • To select an Input Video Source, click *Composite* or *S-video*.

   • To select Microphone input options, click *Auto-detect* or *Off*.

4. Click the *OK* button.
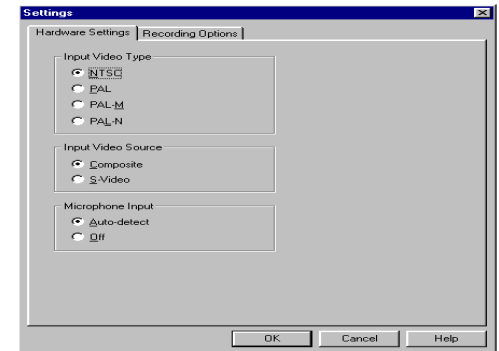
*Figure 3-9:   **Hardware Settings** tabbed page of **Settings Window.***

Adjusting Recording Options

When the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control application is launched for the first time, you will be prompted to configure Recording Option settings.
If you decide to change Recording Options after this, you can do so before or after recording. Settings cannot be adjusted during the recording process.

The following Recording Options can be adjusted:

❑ The location of recorded audio/video files

❑ Recording time

❑ Video file type (MPEG-1, MPEG-2 or Video CD)

❑ Video output quality

❑ Audio output quality

To adjust these options:

1. In the Video Blaster MovieMaker Control window, click the *Settings* button.

2. Click the *Recording Options* tab (Figure 3-10).

3. Do one of the following:

   • To specify a storage location for your recorded files, type the location in the *Output Location* box or click the *Browse* button and select a location from the list.

   • To limit recording time, click the *Limit Recording Time* check box to select it and type or select the time limit you want in the box next to it.

   • To change video file type, click *MPEG-1, MPEG-2* or *Video CD* in the *Output Video File Type* section.

Figure 3-10: **Recording Options** *tabbed page of* **Settings Window.**

   • To change video quality, drag the *Output video quality* slider left to decrease or right to increase.

   • To change audio quality, drag the *Output audio quality* slider left to decrease or right to increase.
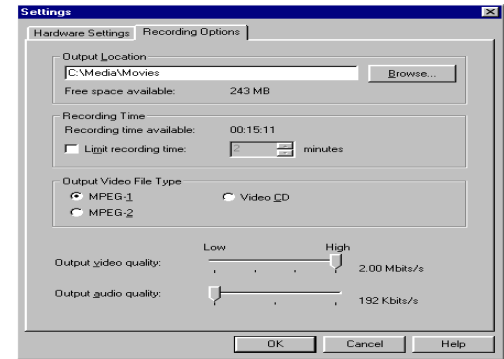
4. Click the **OK** button.

Adjusting Video Display Settings

Display Settings can only be adjusted when previewing or recording video.
Display Settings cannot be changed when recorded files are played back.
Adjustments made *during* the encoding process are reflected in the recorded video from the point you make the adjustments.

With the application's Video Display Settings, you can adjust brightness, contrast, saturation and sharpness levels in your video files.
There is also a default display setting which has been optimized for video encoding.
There may be a delay of 2 or 3 seconds following the adjustment of Video Display Settings for the new setting to take effect. The changes will be reflected on the Video Preview screen.
Use the preview screen to estimate the levels required for video encoding.

To adjust display settings:
>   In the Video Blaster MovieMaker window, drag the *Brightness*, *Contrast*, *Saturation* or *Sharpness* slider left to decrease or right to increase.
>   To set Display Settings back to the default level, click the *Default* button.

Starting Video Blaster MovieMaker Help

To start Video Blaster MovieMaker Help:
>   Click the *Help* button in the Video Blaster MovieMaker window, or
>   click *Start*, select *Programs*, select *Creative*, select *Video Blaster MovieMaker* and click on *Video Blaster MovieMaker Help*.

An MPEG Primer

A

What is MPEG?

MPEG is the acronym for Moving Picture Expert Group, which proposes standards for audio/video compression.

Audio/video must be compressed to avoid the large files which can result from audio/video encoding.

The standards developed by MPEG include MPEG-1 and MPEG-2.

MPEG-1 was developed for storing and retrieving audio/video information from CD-ROMs at a bandwidth of about 1.5 Mbits/s.

MPEG-2 was developed for television broadcasting and defines a higher bandwidth of up to 4 Mbits/s.

Given the higher bandwidth, audio/video files encoded in MPEG-2 are superior in quality to MPEG-1 files. MPEG-2 files do however take up more space.

MovieMaker allows you to compress audio/video as MPEG-1, MPEG-2 or Video CD files. Video CD is a subset of MPEG-1.

Encoding to MPEG

Encoding to MPEG is known as *quality lossy compression* as some data is lost during compression. Although data is greatly compressed, the resulting MPEG files do not suffer much loss in quality. Quality loss depends on the sampling rate and bit rate of the output. The higher the sampling and bit rate output rates, the better the quality.

The quality and size of MPEG files are, however, directly related — the better the quality, the larger the file size.

High quality MPEG files therefore need more data storage and memory.

B

Technical Specifications

Size	❑ 15" x 17.5" x 9.5"
Weight	❑ 14 oz.
Supported video input sources	❑ Composite ❑ S-Video
Supported video input types	❑ PAL ❑ NTSC

Video capture formats	❑ MPEG-1
	   • 352 x 240 resolution
	   • Minimum video output quality 0.5 Mbits/s; maximum 2 Mbits/s
	   • 30 fps
	❑ MPEG-2
	   • 352 x 480 resolution
	   • Minimum video output quality 1 Mbit/s; maximum 6 Mbits/s
	   • 30 fps
	❑ Video CD

	• 352 x 240 resolution
	• Video output quality 1.15 Mbits/s
Supported audio inputs	❏ Stereo line-in
	• 2 RCA
	• Stereo mini-jack
	❏ Microphone
Audio capture format	❏ MPEG-1 Layer 2
Supported audio bit rates	❏ MPEG-1
	• Minimum audio bit rate 192 bits/s; maximum 224 bits/s
	❏ MPEG-2
	• Minimum audio bit rate 192 bits/s; maximum 224 bits/s
	❏ Video CD
	• 224 bit/s
Audio sampling frequency	❏ 44.1 KHz
Audio sampling mode	❏ Stereo
Power	❏ 100V/220V/9V DC 1A
	❏ USB port or self-powered USB hub (powered by an external power source)
Port compatibility	❏ Universal Serial Bus port

Video Blaster MovieMaker Connectivity Diagram

Audio source

Right RCA Audio plug

Audio/Video
RCA cable

FRONT VIEW

BACK VIEW

Computer

Left RCA Audio
plug

Right RCA Audio plug

Left RCA Audio plug

RCA video plug

S-video connector

S-video
connector

Composite
video source

USB cable

Power outlet

S-video source

Shielded
S-video
cable

Microphone

AC
adapter

CREATIVE

CREATIVE

D
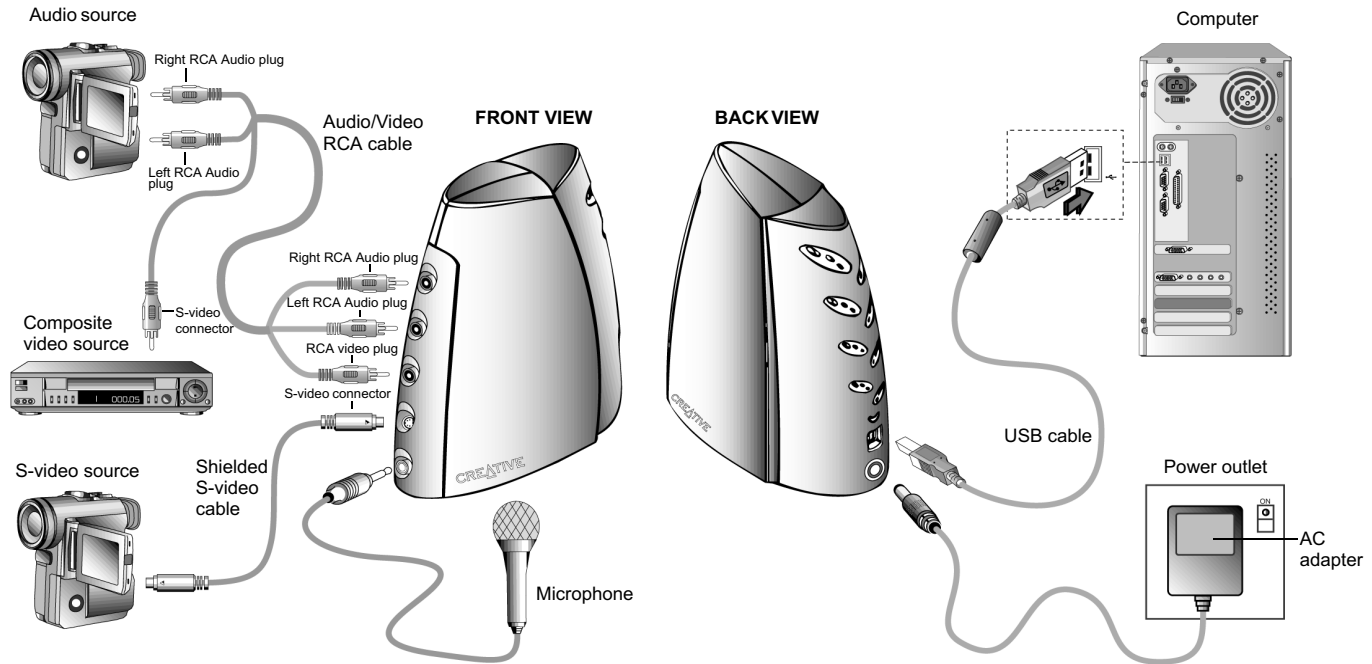
Troubleshooting

Problems indicated by the LED light on the Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware

The LED light on Video Blaster MovieMaker does not light up.

Cause The AC power adapter that supplies power to Video Blaster MovieMaker is not turned on or properly connected.

Solution Make sure that the AC power adapter is turned on and properly secured to Video Blaster MovieMaker.

The LED light on Video Blaster MovieMaker flashes in red and green.

Cause The USB connection between Video Blaster MovieMaker and your computer is not secure. Alternatively, Video Blaster MovieMaker drivers may not have been installed or cannot be loaded properly.

Solution Do one of the following:

❑ Make sure that the USB connection between Video Blaster MovieMaker and your computer is properly secured.

❑ If the red and green flashing happens just after the Video Blaster MovieMaker application has been installed, try re-installing the drivers.

After the Video Blaster MovieMaker application is shut down, the LED light on Video Blaster MovieMaker turns red. The application stalls when launched again.

Cause   The Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware did not register the signal to shut down.

Solution   Do the following:

1. Press the reset button once.

2. If the LED light turns green, restart the application.
   If the LED light starts flashing, press the reset button again and restart your computer.

Problems with video input   *During recording, video input displayed on the preview screen appears jerky.*

Cause   Your computer does not have enough bandwidth to write recorded data to hard disk.

Solution   Do the following:

1. Click *Start*, select *Settings* and click on *Control Panel*.

2. Double-click the *System* icon.

3. In the *System Properties* dialog box, click the *Device Manager* tab.

4. Double-click the *Disk drives* icon.

5. Double-click the *Generic IDE Disk Type* icon.

6. Click the *Settings* tab.

7. Click the *DMA* option.

8. Click the *OK* button.

9. Before attempting to record again, quit all other applications (including screen-savers).

When the Video Blaster MovieMaker application is launched, video input is not displayed in the Video Preview screen.
A message appears stating that there is no video input.

Cause   Your video source may not be turned on or properly connected to Video Blaster MovieMaker. Alternatively, Hardware Settings may not have been correctly configured to match your video source.

Solution   Do the following:

1. Make sure that the video source is turned on and properly secured to Video Blaster MovieMaker.

2. Check that Video Blaster MovieMaker's Hardware Settings are properly configured.

When the Video Blaster MovieMaker application is launched, video input is not displayed in the Video Preview screen. A message appears in the Video Preview screen stating "MovieMaker hardware is off".

Cause   The AC power adapter that supplies power to Video Blaster MovieMaker is not turned on or properly connected.
Alternatively, the USB connection between Video Blaster MovieMaker and your computer is not secure.

Solution   Do the following:

1. Make sure that the AC power adapter is turned on and properly secured to Video Blaster MovieMaker.

2. Make sure that the USB connection between Video Blaster MovieMaker and your computer is properly secured.

Problems with audio input	*There is no audio input from the microphone.*

Cause   The microphone is not properly connected to Video Blaster MovieMaker or Hardware Settings have not been properly configured to detect microphone input.

Solution   Do the following:

1. Make sure that the microphone is properly connected to Video Blaster MovieMaker.
2. Follow steps 1 through 5 of "Recording an audio/video file with microphone audio" on page 3-14

Audio from your audio source is in mono or appears to come from only one channel.

Cause   The audio cable from the audio source may only have one mono-plug instead of the two plug RCA audio cables.
Using this type of audio cable results in mono sound or sound which appears to come from only one channel.

Solution   Do the following:

1. Fit a mono-to-stereo adapter (not provided) on the mono-plug. This adapter will split the mono-plug into two regular RCA stereo plugs.
2. Connect the RCA stereo plugs to Video Blaster MovieMaker as described in "Connecting Video Blaster MovieMaker hardware to audio sources" on page 2-9

Problems with copying recorded files to CD	Refer to the Video Blaster MovieMaker application's Help file.

To start Video Blaster MovieMaker Help:

Click the *Help* 🄿 button in the Video Blaster MovieMaker window, or click *Start*, select *Programs*, select *Creative*, select *Video Blaster MovieMaker* and click on *Video Blaster MovieMaker Help*.

E

Note on USB Compatibility

A small number of motherboards have USB ports that do not meet the USB specification exactly. Unfortunately, Video Blaster MovieMaker *may* not operate correctly with these systems.

Some manufacturers of non-USB-compliant motherboards have released motherboard or BIOS updates to address the problem.

If Video Blaster MovieMaker does not work on your system and you suspect that the problem may be related to your PC's USB port, the following is a list of available options:

1. Contact your PC vendor.
   Your PC vendor may be able to upgrade your motherboard or its BIOS to a newer version that addresses USB incompatibilities.
2. Use a PCI host adapter which provides USB connectors.
   If you are not able to upgrade your motherboard or its BIOS, we recommend this approach.
3. Attach Video Blaster MovieMaker to a self-powered USB hub.
   Some USB devices (such as monitors) also operate as self-powered USB hubs; you can also buy dedicated powered USB hubs that are to be attached to your PC's USB port. However, in some cases, attaching a powered USB hub to a non-USB-compliant USB motherboard connector will not solve the problem.

To look for a USB compatible product, you can visit the product search page at the official USB web site: **http://www.usb.org/app/search/products**.